Realising the Institutional Technical Plan

Sir—May I answer Mr Stanton's letter, published in the September issue of the Production Engineer. He says, and I agree, that for the Technical Plan to succeed to the extent that he, I, and many more of our members wish, our Technical staff must be substantially increased.

Mr Stanton predicted that the answer to his letter would be Finance. In part that is true, and I would like to comment briefly. Like many other voluntary organisations, our Institution has found it difficult to balance income and expenditure in recent years. We do not have large reserves. A staff increase of the size Mr Stanton seeks must therefore be funded out of income from our members—who recently made it quite clear that an immediate increase in subscriptions is unacceptable. Thus expenditure on the Technical Policy Plan must be matched by benefit—pound for pound and step by step. Until the benefits from our first modest ventures are proved, there can be no major expansion.

As a matter of history, following presentation to Council of our Ten Year Plan last October, a modest increase in the Technical Policy Board budget was approved. Faced with growing financial problems Mr Goss met the four Policy Board Chairmen in June this year to fix budgets. Like the others, I accepted the need for cuts, and made them, pruning TPB expansion plans severely. Then the subscription increase was rejected and we cut again.

Notwithstanding, the Technical Plan is going ahead, though slower than I for one would like. Six of the seven Activity Groups and the reformatted Research and Development Activity Committee are operating well. Our Management Guides are being published. We have conference and workshop plans. If these efforts result in a financial surplus, my chance to have conference and workshop plans. If these efforts result in a financial surplus, my chance to have conference and workshop plans. If these efforts result in a financial surplus, my chance to have conference and workshop plans. If these efforts result in a financial surplus, my chance to have conference and workshop plans. If these efforts result in a financial surplus, my chance to have conference and workshop plans. If these efforts result in a financial surplus, my chance to have conference and workshop plans. If these efforts result in a financial surplus, my chance to have conference and workshop plans. 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